NEWES FROM BABYLON:

Of a New-found Prince, that assoone as he was borne, spake, and wrought Miracles by word of mouth.

Sent from thence to the Great Master of *Malta*, by his Lieger Ambassador resident there, and from *Malta* dispersed *into most parts of Christendome.*

SHEWING

Also a Relation of a Vision that was seen at *Medina Talnabi*, (where *Mahomets* Tombe is) in Arabia, *Of a Woman in the Firmament, with a Book in her hand.*

With a description of the Ile of *Malta*, and the dignity of the Great Master and Knights of the Order; with many other Historicall Occurrences.

LONDON,
Printed by *T. H.* for *Hugh Perry*, and are to be sold at the new Exchange. 1637.

BRITISH MUSEUM

News from Babylon.

THe unparalleld pride and ambition of *Lucifer*, was such that he attempted to sit in the thron of Eternity, (for which presumption he with his associate Angels were hurl'd down to the Abysse of never-ending misery) he failing and falling in his treason against God, doth never cease to practise his malice against man, because man was created as Gods Image or likenesse, (which being lost) it was by superabundant Grace renewed in our Redemption by Christ. For which unexpressible mercy and favour (extended so unmeasurably unto man most miserable) *Satan* hath bin, is, and ever will be an irreconcileable and implacable enemy, to all the race and posterity of mankind, practising by outward force, and inward suggestions to insnare him to a second apostacie, or a precipitation, Relaps to his unrecoverable confusion. To which end and purpose hee and his ministers have in all Times and Ages, amongst all Nations, sexes, and conditions, sown and scattered Heresies, Sects, Schismes,

Diviſions, Diſcords, Emulations, Erronious Opinions, and bloudy Diſſentions, to entice and draw us from God, to himſelfe, either by Infidelity or Atheiſme.

And were it not that the old Dragon is known to be ſo malicioufly vigilant (omitting no occaſions to intrap us) I ſhould hardly have been induced to have written this following diſcourſe of the Birth of a Newfound Antichriſt born in *Babylon*, in *Caldea* or *Aſſyria*, neither do I give further credit to it, but as a deluſion or Impoſture, foyſted into thoſe parts of the World, from him that was the father of Lyes ſince the beginning.

This Impe of imagination, (or imagined Antichriſt) is ſaid to be lately born in *Babel* or *Babylon*, and ſurely that name and place doth beſt befit his birth, for from whence ſhould confuſion breed, but where it had beginning? it was the Metropolis or chief City and ſeat of the firſt Monarchy, and the firſt Monarch there was the Kingly and Tyrannicall Great Hunter *Nimrod*, who was the ſon of *Cuſh*, the ſonne of *Cham*, who was the accurſed ſonne of the bleſſed Patriarch *Noah*; it was to this *Babylon* that the idolatrous Kings of *Iſrael* and *Iuda*, with their ſubjects were carried captives, and bowed in chains and fetters, namely, *Manaſſeth*, *Iehoiakim*, and *Zedechias*, (as you may reade in the 33. and 36. Chapters of the ſecond Booke of *Chronicles*;) it was the Nurſery or Seminary for falſe worſhip and Idolatry. It is ſaid, that *all Nations have drunken of the wine of the wrath of the fornication of Babylon*, *Revel.* 18. 3. and in the Verſe before, it is called, *The habitation of*

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Devils, and the *hold or cage of all unclean birds*.

In this place of confusion, this yong Impler is said to be lately born, in this Taverne where this accursed wine is deerly bought and sold, hath this new Drawer set a broach (or pierced) many Hogsheads; in this habitation of Devils, is this Spirit adored, and in this filthy cage of fowle and uncleane Birds was this Owle (or Scritch-owle) lately hatch'd.

But the next question is, how the supposed news of this Bable of *Babel*, should be spread and rumoured through the Christian World; all which as briefly as I can I will relate, although I my selfe, do give but slender credit to the Relation, which is as followeth word for word.

A Copy of a Letter to the Great Master of *Malta*, wherin is advertised to the Princes of Christendom, of the Birth of Antichrist.

WE, *Great Master of* Malta, *of the order of* Ierusalem, *do confesse to have seen two Letters from our Ambassadour of* Babylon, *in which hee sayes, that to a proper Woman, commonly called* Sarah, *is born a Child in darknesse, (the father of whom is not known) his countenance is smooth, his teeth as sharpe as a Catts, eight dayes after his Birth hee did walke in a stately and majestick manner, and discourse so exactly, that every man of judgement might apprehend him, he saith he is the child of God, and the Messias. The said Ambassador doth averre, that a moneth after his birth he did reason very acutely and elegantly with children. Likewise (they say) that at his birth there were strange Apparitions in Heaven, and at Noon-day the Sun was Eclipsed, and presently after shined bright, and we understand from our Intelligence of that Countrey, that at the Night of his Birth, there*

there fell from Heaven a great ball of fire, which sudde-ly dispersed into severall watters of the Aire; And also they affirme, that miraculous things appeared at his birth, (viz.) *that it did rain* Pearle *and* Manna, *and precious stones, and the day following there fell from Heaven terrible Serpents of a dreadfull proportion; and when it was demanded of the child what the Wonders did signifie, He answered that the* Pearle, *Manna, and precious stones did presage happinesse to all those that would believe in him, but confusion, and remedilesse destruction to those that would not entertain him. At his birth a mighty Mountain opened, in which was writings, in one whereof was found an inscription in the Hebrew Tongue, which being interpreted in our English is,* The time of my Birth is come; *likewise all the Mountains of* Babylon *did open at the same time; also our Ambassadours doe affirme, that of their owne certain experience, they have seene him raise the dead, give sight to the blinde, and strength to the lame and maymed, and heale severall manner of sicke persons with his word, without any Application of* Medicine. *For which miraculous effects many people of* Babylon, *do adore him with divine Adoration, and them that will not so reverence him are put to torments, by that meanes to force them to acknowledge his Deity. Our said Ambassadour doth testifie with vehement affirmation, that the said child doth work extraordinary Miracles, and that a great part of the people of* Babylon, *do repose trust in him for their preservation. The said Ambassadours do also report, that at the time of his birth w[illegible] heard a voice 16 dayes together continually, and*

was dissevered 100 *miles round about, the substance of which* (viz.) *was*, Make yee ready to receive my delightfull Childe, and blessed are all those that will adore, and believe in him. *They have also composed certain Allegations, (out of the old and new Testament) to prove that this childe is hee which should come in the end of the World, and be called* Antichrist, *and the sonne of perdition.*

Me thinks, any Reader of a weake discretion and capacity, may perceive this Letter to be a meere *Babel* it selfe full of confusion and contrarieties, for here is no mention of the season, yeare, moneth, or day of his birth, or of any father, or any of the Progenitors, or originall of the mother of this childe, *He was born in darkenesse*, I see no reason that a childe of darkenesse should be allowed any light, and it was the darker, because *The Sunne was Eclipsed at his birth*, being *at Noon-day*. Iudge I pray you, it could not be altogether dark at noon, besides his birth (as they say) was lightned with *a great ball of fire which fell from Heaven, and fill'd the firmament full of fiery impressions*, so that the place of his birth could not be dark, except it were in some cellar or tenebrous cole-mine. *He walked and talked stately and acutely at a week old*, that every man of judgement might apprehend him, and yet *when he was a moneth old, he did but talke acutely with children*. So that he abated in his ability of discourse from men to tattle with Babes. *Himselfe sayes he is the child of God*, but hee shall bring better witnesse then himself before I will beleeve him. The letter sayes that *it rained Pearle and Manna, and precious*

stones

ſtones at his birth: as concerning *Manna*, it is no great news, for it fals from the Heavens daily (in the Summer time in *Poland*, and I my ſelfe have eaten of it in *England*) and if there had been a ſhowre of Pearle and precious ſtones, it is to be imagined, that the people would have gathered them up, and kept ſome of them for holy, memorable and precious unmatchable reliques, and ſome of them would have beene bought by Chriſtian Merchants, or Factors, or the Great Maſter of *Malta* ſhould have had ſome of them ſent for rarities from *Babylon*, thither by his Lieger Ambaſſadour, who would not have forgot ſuch a note, which would have beene ſpecified alſo in the letter; and (no doubt) but we ſhould have had ſome of them in *England*, with the copy of the letter; but belike the Pearle was but a ſhowre of haile, which quickly melted and conſumed to nothing (like the dream of the new-born childe) and for the precious ſtones that fell, the reporter of them deſerves the Whetſtone for his labour. Alſo the letter ſayes, that *a Mountain (unnamed) did open, and that writings were found in it, and that all the Mountains in* Babylon *did open*, which is a plain contradiction to truth, for *Babylon* was built in a Plain, in the Land of *Shinar*, *Gen.* 11. and there is no mention of any Mountain in the text, in or neer it, Alſo the Letter ſays that *they do adore and worſhip him*, and yet they confeſſe him *to be Antichriſt*, *and the ſonne of perdition*. This ſtuffe is woven of changeable falſe colours, like the weavings of the ſhuttle-brain'd Prophets, *Farnham* and *Bull*, who out of the Loomes of idle-

neſſe have produced this Web of iniquitie.

For ſuppoſe there was or is ſuch a *thing* at *Babylon*, and that every Kingdome, County, Towne, and Village had each of them ſuch an Impoſture or Wnimſey; and that they did all worke Wonders and Miracles, yet all true Chriſtians have ſuch infallible and aſſured teſtimony of an eternall, holy, immaculate Chriſt (anointed before all beginnings) a Ieſus, a Saviour, an invincible Conquerour and Triumpher over Sinne, Death and Hell, whoſe Power, Majeſtie, Mercie, and al-ſufficient knowledge never began, ſhall never diminiſh, nor ſhall ever end; this great and glorious God and Man hath foretold *of falſe Chriſts, that ſhould come in theſe later times, and that they ſhould worke great ſignes and wonders, if it were poſſible they ſhould deceive the very Elect*, *Mat.* 24. But with all, our true Chriſt, and alone Saviour gives us two moſt loving and faire warnings, that we ſhould not beleeve them, neither in their words or wonders.

The Devill with his Miniſters and Inſtruments, are like Apes, making a fantaſtick ſhew of imitation of ſomethings good, but doing none, as the Magicians of *Egypt*, when they counterfeited the Miracles which *Moſes* did; and becauſe *Enoch* and *Elias* were by the Almighties power taken up miraculouſly, therefore Satan made the Heathen Idolaters beleeve that *Ganymede* and *Romulus* did aſcend and were aſſumed up into immortall habitations; ſo it is recorded, *Acts* 13.6,8. of one *Barjeſus*, or *Elimas* a Sorcerer, that with his jugling withſtood Saint *Paul*, and

did

did all hee could to hinder the converſion of *Sergius Paulus*; but by the power of that Chriſt which *Elimas* reſiſted, he was ſtruck blinde preſently, *Verſe* 11. And in the 19 of the *Acts*, *Verſe* 13, there were no leſſe then ſeven Impoſtors that did take upon them to work Miracles in the Name of *Ieſus*, as Saint *Paul* did; and in the 16 *Verſe* is related what reward they had for their devilliſh preſumption. The like was *Simon Magus*, *Acts* 8, and too many other of the like peſtilent Satanicall and infernall brood, which would be over-tedious for me to write of, or for any man of judgment to reade.

Yet I thinke it not impertinent, to ſhew that in all Ages there hath appeared in the Firmament, fiery Impreſſions, Meteors, with Apparitions of foure or five Sunnes at once, and the Moone of the colour of bloud, with rain and haile of moſt wonderful formes, Winds and terrible Tempeſts, removing of Grounds. fearfull Earth-quakes, opening and removing of the Earth; dreadfull fires, and raging ſodain floods: and withall that the World is ſeldome unfurniſhed with Hypocrites, Iuglers, and devilliſh Impoſtors, to ſpeak onely of late times in the memory of man.

In the yeer 1558, the eleventh of *July*, the ſixt and laſt yeer of the Raigne of Queen *Mary*, within a mile of *Nottingham* was a moſt wonderfull and remarkable Storm, and a violent and extraordinary Tempeſt of Winde, Lightning and Thunder, it came through two Towns with ſuch vehement impetuoſity, that it beat down all the Houſes and Churches, and the Bels were caſt out without the limits of the Church-

yards, and ſome Webs of Lead were thrown foure hundred foot from the Roofs and Battlements of Churches and Steeples into the field, writhen and crumpled together like a pair of Gloves. In this Tempeſt the River of *Trent* (which ran betwixt the aforeſaid two Towns) the water with the mud in the bottome was carried a quarter of a mile, and caſt againſt the trees, the trees were torne up by the roots, and hurld twelve-ſcore off; alſo a child was taken out of a mans hand two ſpears length high into the Aire, and ſo carried one hundred foot, and then let fall, wherwith his arme was broken, and ſo died, five or ſix men were ſlain therabouts, and neither fleſh nor skin periſhed, there fell hail-ſtones that were fifteen inches, or ſomething more about. *Howes, or Stowes Chron. pag.* 634.

In the yeere 1577 (the 19 of Queene *Elizabeths* Reigne) on the 17 day of *March*, a tempeſt came from the North Coaſt, neere to a Town called *Richmond* in *Yorkſhire*, which overthrew not onely Cottages, Trees, Barns, and Hay-ſtacks, but it alſo bear downe the moſt part of a Church called *Patrick Brumpton*, with moſt ſtrange ſights in the aire fearfull and wonderfull. Thus have ſtrange Tempeſts, Signes, and Apparitions been in ancient and modern times ſeen, as in the yeer 1116, in the 17 yeer of the Reign of King *Henry* the Firſt; in the moneth of *March*, the Moone did ſeeme at two ſeverall times to be turned into bloud.

Alſo in the yeer 1233, in the 17 yeer of the Raigne of King *Henry* the Third, on the ſeventh of *April*, there

there appeared the likeneſſe of five Suns, at one time ſhining in the Firmament. But a wonderfull accident of darkneſſe hapned in the fifteenth yeer of the ſame King *Henry* the Third, upon Saint *Pauls* day, *January* 25, *Anno* 1230 in Saint *Pauls* Church at *London*, for as *Roger Niger* (Biſhop of *London*) was at the Maſſe (or ſuch divine ſervice as was at that time there uſed) ſuddenly an extreame darkneſſe ſtrooke into the Church, with a terrible clap of thunder, that ſhook the ſaid Cathedrall Church, as if it would have faln into ruines, and preſently out of the darkneſſe of a Cloud did burſt and flaſh ſuch fearfull Lightning, that all the Church ſeemed to be of a flaming light fire; the moſt part of the people there, at their devotion, thought they ſhould have preſently died, thouſands of men and women (in feare and amazement) ran out of the Church, and in that aſtoniſhment fell groveling on the ground, and were (for the preſent) quite deprived of all underſtanding and ſence; not any one of all the great multitude did abide in the Church, but only the Biſhop and one Deacon, who ſtood ſtill all the while at the high Altar, nor is it recorded of any harme that was done by this tempeſt, either to the Church, the Biſhop, or the people.

It hath divers times rained bloud, and ſometimes wooll, every yeere the Sun and Moone are Eclipſed, and in the yeere 1543, the 35 of King *Henry* the Eighth, there were foure Eclipſes, alſo, *Anno* 1540, the ſalt-water flowed above *London* Bridge. By all theſe Relations it is proved apparantly, that the extraordinary ſignes and weather which is ſaid to be

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at *Babylon*, when their ſuppoſed Bable was born, are no remarkable approbations, or teſtimonies to cleer him from being a meere blaſphemous jugling Impoſtor.

For Earthquakes, in the yeer 1156, the twelfth of King *Henry* the Second, there was ſuch a fierce Earthquake in *Elie*, *Suffolk*, *Norfolk*, and other parts of this Kingdome, that it ſhook ſome Steeples ſo that the Bels rung with it, and overthrew men as they went or ſtood on their feet.

But to come neerer to our memory, in the thirteenth of Queen *Elizabeth*, 1571, the 17 of *February*, there was an Earthquake at a place called *Kinnaſton* in *Hereſordſhire*, which cauſed a piece of ground of 16 Acres to remove many ſcore yards, carrying trees, high-wayes, ſheep-coats, along with it, and ſwallowed ſixty ſheep, it removed hedgrows, it overthrew *Kingſton* Chappell, it made a Hill where was a Valley, which is to be ſeen to this day, alſo in the ſeventeenth of Queen *Elizabeth* 1575, was a moſt fearfull Earthquake, but in the two and twentieth of her Raigne 1580, then was the greateſt that I have heard or read of.

The moſt dreadfull tempeſt that hapned in mans memory, was in the nine and thirtieth of Queen *Elizabeth* on a Sunday 1596, the fiſt of *December*, in the Cathedrall Church of *Wells* in *Somerſetſhire*, where as one Doctor *Rogers*, was preaching, to a great aſſembly; as he was preaching, a thing in the likeneſſe of a foot-ball, burſt in at the Weſt window of the Church, flying by the Pulpit by the wall,

where

where it seemed to break suddenly, with such a rumbling noyse, as if 100 Cannons had bin discharged, at once, and presently followed such a terrible tempest of thunder and lightning, as if the Church had been fired, many of the people were strucken down to the ground, and the Preacher was struck downe in the Pulpit, and many in the body of the Church had marks set upon their clothes, and their bodies, in the formes of Crosses and Starres, but the marks fell not upon any one that was in the Quire. This tempest did stink exceedingly, and as it quickly ceased, it melted the clock-wires and some irons, it brake downe some of the stone-work, but it hurt or burnt no timber-work. It being past, the amazed people began to recover their half-lost-wits, and then the Bishop, who having been all the while in the Quire, did comfort and cheer them up, and preached to them all a comfortable Sermon in the afternoon.

Likewise in the yeer 1582, and 1583, the 24 and 25 of Queen *Elizabeth*, there fell hailstones in *Norfolke* (neer the towns of *Worsted* and *Walsham*) of the fashion of Spurs, three inches about: also in *Dorsetshire* in a place called *Blackmore*, in the Parish of *Armitage*, a piece of ground of three acres did remove over *Willow-trees* and *Alders*, and stopt up a highway that lead to a Market town called *Cern*.

I could declare more of these wonders of Gods working and suffering, but our English Historians have so well compiled them, that who so list may see and be satisfied in the Writings or Chronicles of *Hollingshead*, *Stow*, *Hower*, and many others, wherein

they may finde that in all ages *England* hath had her Varieties, in as great number of falſe Prophets, Impoſtures, Counterfeits, Iuglers, Storms, Tempeſts, Eclipſes, Earth-quakes, and other accidents of admiration, as *Babylon* in *Caldea*, or *Babylon* in *Egypt*.

To ſhut up all, with News that came to *Conſtantinople*, in the yeer 1620, on the 20 of *September*, Sir *Thomas Glover* Knight, then being Ambaſſadour there, for his Majeſty of Great *Brittain*, (it being but 17 yeers ſince) there was a ſtrange Viſion or Apparition ſeen in the aire, at a place called *Medina Talnabi* in *Arabia*, (wheras the Impoſtor *Mahomet* was buried) to whoſe Sepulchre the *Turks* do in multitudes go on Pilgrimage; *Mecha* being not farre from thence, from whence he or ſhe that hath not a ticket, is not ſuffered to come neere their Prophet *Mahomets* Tombe at *Medina*. The Viſion began at midnight with ſuch a violent tempeſt, fearful thunder and darkneſſe of the firmament, that it deprived many of their ſenſes; but when the Skies were cleered, there appeared in the Element theſe following words, as it were written in the *Arabian* tongue and character, which Engliſhed are theſe: *O why will you beleeve in Lies?*

After three of the clock in the morning there appeared a Woman all attired in white, ſhe ſeemed of a lovely and amiable complexion and featur, and (to all mens view there) was encompaſſed with the Sun; and in her hand ſhe held a Book, there ſeemed to oppoſe her great troups of armed men, in the habits of *Perſians*, *Arabians*, *Turks*, and ſuch like of *Mahomets* Sect, But ſhee boldly ſtood to them, and opened the

Book

Book, whereat they all fled, and immediatly all the Lamps that were burning about *Mahomets* tombe went out. This Vision lasted 21 dayes, and all the Country was amazed what it might portend; when a poor *Mahometan* Priest (whom they called a *Dervise*) told them that God was angry with them, and that the Prophet *Mahomet* was an Impostor, and their Religion corrupt, and that *Christ* shal shine like the Sun, and his Name and Doctrine should be advanced and raised for ever.

For which words, the furious people fell upon the poor Priest, & tortured him many ways most cruelly: they stripped him naked, and with a flat cudgell gave him 100 blowes on the soles of his feet till the bloud sprang out; the poore wretch still cryed to *the woman with the Book to help him*; then they took a Buls pizzell wherewith they beat his body till his sinews burst, and lastly, they laid him on a Wheele, & brake all his bones; hee still crying, as long as hee had life and speech, *O thou woman with the Book save mee.* This is more at large related in the *Turkish History*, *pag.* 1384, to which I referre the curious Reader for further satisfaction.

Yet because mention is made of *Malta*, and of the Grand or Great Master there, and that many of the Readers are ignorant what *Malta* is, or what place or dignity the Great Master bears, it is not amisse that some thing touching these points be described.

Malta is an Island in the Mediterranean Sea, farre within the straights, almost betwixt that part of the World called *Africa*, and the Island or Kingdome

of *Sicilia*, the naturall borne people there are black, (but they are Christians) it is in length 20 miles, and in the broadest place 12, and in compasse 60 miles, it is a place abundantly stored with any thing that concerns the life of man, they have commonly two Harvests every yeer. It is thought Saint *Paul* in his shipwrack (*Act.* 27) recovered land upon this Ile, when the Viper came upon his hand) it hath sundry safe Ports and Harbours for shipping, with very strong Castles, Forts, whereof one is called Saint *Elmo*, and another Saint *Angela*, two impregnable places, also there lieth a little distance from *Malta*, some smal Ilands which are under the government of *Malta*, of which three are named *Goza*, *Cumimia*, & *Piper*, this Iland is of that strength that in the yeer 1565, *Solyman* the *Magnificent* Emperour of the *Turks*, sent to invade it a fleet of 130 Gallies, 22 ships, and 10 Galles, and 17 Galliots which came from the *Rhodes* against them, besides 10000 horseman, and 30000 footmen, besides the King of *Algiers* came to aid the *Turks* with a great navy or army, which after many bloudy bickerings, the *Turks* did land their forces, and with great slaughter after seven cruell assaults they wonne the Castle of Saint *Elmo*, but when they thought to winne the whole Iland, the great Master with his valiant Knights and Souldiers (although but few in number to their foes) recovered the Castle of Saint *Elmo*, again, and inforced the *Turks* to flee and forsake the Iland with such a losse of men, shipping, & artillery, that they never since had any minds to assault *Malta* again, for they lost 24000 men, &

spent

ſpent in battery 60 and 18000 great ſhot, and the Great Maſter loſt 5000 men, and 240 Knights of the Order.

The great Maſter of *Malta*, is alwayes choſen out of the number of the Knights of the Order, who are at the leaſt 1000 (but ſo many of them doth not reſide there ſtill) at one time: they are many of them Princes, Noblemen, Gentlemen, and all approved Souldiers, who for their zeale to Chriſtian Religion, all vowed to ſpend their time & lives in defence and ſervice of their faith againſt all *Mahometans*, *Pagans* or *Infidels* whatſoever. The Grand Maſter himſelfe being commander over them, and hath ſoveraigne autority; and from the Great Maſter was the former Ambaſſadour ſent from *Malta* to *Babylon*, they are of divers Nations, and two of the Great Maſters names were *Villiers*, who are thought to have been *Engliſhmen*. They are commonly called Knights Hoſpitallers, or Knights of the Order of Saint *Iohn* of *Ieruſalem*, they had a goodly houſe ſometimes for a certain number of them in Saint *Iohns* ſtreet, which houſe to this day is rightly called Saint *Iohns*.

FINIS.